

Message Text

SECRET

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ORIGIN SS-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 261561

EXDIS, TOSEC 548

FOLLOWING REPEAT MONTEVIDEO 3455 ACTION SECSTATE

26 NOV 74

QTE

S E C R E T MONTEVIDEO 3455

EXDIS

"FOR ASST SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR"

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PE, UY

SUBJ: PRESIDENT VELASCO'S ACCUSATIONS

REF: MONTEVIDEO 3440

1. I WISH TO BRING TO YOUR ATTENTION THAT CONTINUED DELAY IN MY KEEPING APPOINTMENT WITH ACTING FONMINISTER TO MAKE THE "FORMAL DENIAL" WHICH I WAS AUTHORIZED TO MAKE IN STATE 255877 IS ONLY SERVING TO MAKE A BAD SITUATION WORSE BY TENDING TO DISPLAY UNCERTAINTY TOWARD AND SEEMINGLY ADDING CONFIRMATION TO PRESIDENT VELASCO'S UNFOUNDED CHARGES. THIS IS PARTICULARLY DIFFICULT FOR ME SINCE THE ACTING FONMINISTER KNOWS THE SUBJECT MATTER OF MY CALL. ROUTINELY, WHEN A REQUEST

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IS MADE TO SEE THE ACTING FONMINISTER, THE CHIEF OF PROTOCOL

ASKS THE SUBJECT OF THE CALL AND IN THIS CASE WAS TOLD PRIVATELY AND ORALLY BY THE DCM WHEN HE REQUESTED THE APPOINTMENT ON NOVEMBER 21 THAT I WAS COMING IN WITH REFERENCE TO CHARGES MADE AGAINST FRANK ORTIZ AND ME IN PRESIDENT VELASCO'S PRESS CONFERENCE OF NOVEMBER 13. THE IMPLICATIONS OF CONTINUED DELAY, THEREFORE, ARE UNFORTUNATELY OBVIOUS.

2. I AM AWARE OF THE SECRETARY'S INTEREST IN THIS MATTER AND WILL OF COURSE ACT IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE INSTRUCTIONS I HAVE RECEIVED IN THE MENTIONED TELEGRAM AS MODIFIED ORALLY IN CONVERSATIONS WITH OFFICE DIRECTOR ORTIZ AND IN ANY FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS I MAY RECEIVE, EVEN THOUGH I PERSONALLY BELIEVE THE OUTLINE OF REMARKS WHICH I PROVIDED IN MVD 3440 TO BE ENTIRELY APPROPRIATE: BUT I DO ASK THAT THE SECRETARY BE MADE AWARE OF THE INCREASING URGENCY OF THE MATTER SO THAT I CAN ACT AT THE EARLIEST POSSIBLE MOMENT. YOUR ARE, OF COURSE, AWARE THAT I WOULD HAVE ACTED MUCH EARLIER ON THIS BASIS OF TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED BUT THAT I TELEPHONED AMBASSADOR BOWDLER TO DETERMINE WHETHER THE DEPARTMENT REALLY INTENDED TO AUTHORIZE A WRITTEN COMMUNICATION ABOUT WHICH WE HAD DOUBTS. STATE 255877 AUTHORIZED A "FORMAL DENIAL" AND IN MY EXPERIENCE IN THE FOREIGN SERVICE FORMAL HAS GENERALLY MEANT WRITTEN. IT NOW RESULTS THAT MY DESIRE TO CLEAR THIS AMBIGUITY AND TO BE SURE THAT I WAS ACTING IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE DEPARTMENT'S REAL WISHES IN A DELICATE MATTER HAS PRODUCED DELAYS WHICH ARE EVER MORE EMBARRASSING TO ME.
SIRACUSA UNQTE INGERSOLL

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